

SENATE RESOLUTION 266
By Trail

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Carol Livingston for her service to Murfreesboro City Schools and the children of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those exemplary educators who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm, bringing untold benefits to the children of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable educator is Carol Livingston; having distinguished herself as an exemplary teacher over the course of her more than 32-year career, she entered into a much deserved retirement on at the end of the 2002-2003 school year; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Ms. Livingston is the daughter of Earl James and Kathleen Tracy Livingston and began her schooling at the culturally rich South St. Elmo Elementary School under legendary educator, Principal Herbert Kaiser; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a student leader, Carol served as President of the John J. Audubon Society chapter in Miss Mildred Peach's third grade class and earned the D.A.R. medal for sixth grade citizenship; and

WHEREAS, at Lookout Junior High School, she was Vice President of her class, scorekeeper for the basketball team and often served lunch to the staff and visiting dignitaries and at the Chattanooga City Schools Central Office, which shared the same building; and

WHEREAS, chosen as "Class Prophet" her Senior year, Ms. Livingston is a graduate of Chattanooga City High School, where she matriculated her first two years under distinguished Principal Creed F. Bates, then under Dr. Jim Henry for her final two years; she was a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-Hi-Y women's service club, Student Council, the *Dynamo* Staff and was a student aide to her class sponsor, Mrs. Mary Barker; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of Chattanooga High rallied around young Carol after the tragic death of her father during her Junior year, including the establishment of a college

fund for her begun by renowned Latin teacher, Miss Lillian Patton; Carol would enroll in the newly renamed Middle Tennessee State University in the Fall of 1966; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in the MTSU community, Ms. Livingston was a member of Phi Theta Psi sorority, a local sorority chosen as a colony for Kappa Delta sorority, which she served as Scholarship Chairman and Social Chairman of the new Delta Pi chapter; she and President Ruth Salisbury decorated their first chapter room in the new high-rise dormitory; and

WHEREAS, graduating Magna Cum Laude, during her time at MTSU Carol was a member of Kappa Delta Pi educational fraternity, Tau Omicron, and the Women's Honor Society, served as Vice President of her Senior Class, and was selected "Most Outstanding Senior Woman" by her peers; and

WHEREAS, getting her first taste of a classroom from the teacher's point of view in 1970, Carol Livingston served as a student teacher at Hobgood Elementary in Murfreesboro, during which time she was filmed with Dr. Mary Tom Berry and Mrs. Margaret Rucker in a training session on the new and innovative technique of filming student teaching sessions and student/teacher conferences; and

WHEREAS, continuing her love of teaching by working as a substitute teacher at Hobgood Elementary for Principal Frank Turner, in the Fall of 1970 Ms. Livingston entered graduate school at MTSU and was promptly placed in charge of Haynes House, the Graduate Women's Honor House on Main Street in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Carol Livingston began her professional career as a teacher with Murfreesboro City Schools when she was hired by Superintendent Baxter Hobgood after a job opening occurred at Hobgood Elementary; during her thirty-two and one-half years with the system she would be involved in the opening of three new schools: Murfreesboro Learning Center, Bradley Model School and Northfield Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Livingston completed her Master's Thesis while working at the Murfreesboro Learning Center, where she served as Principal due to her seniority of one-half year of teaching experience; her thesis was based on the reading and math improvement methods utilized by the school to assist at-risk students and helped her to earn her Master's of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from MTSU in 1972; and

WHEREAS, spending the next ten years at Bradley Model School with Principal Zane Cantrell, Ms. Livingston held many school-based jobs as a primary teacher, including serving as the first Primary Coordinator and editing many school projects such as their Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation (SACS) studies; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure at Hobgood Elementary, Carol Livingston was trained as a Peer Evaluator in the early days of the new state standardized teacher evaluations; she shared her knowledge by training other teachers and student teachers in understanding the process and instruments utilized; and

WHEREAS, selected in 1987 as part of the initial faculty and staff of the first new school in Murfreesboro in many years, Northfield Elementary School, led by dynamic Principal Mark Edwards, Ms. Livingston developed and established the Transitional First Grade program for students deemed “immature bright,” using her love of building self-esteem in her students to prepare children, whose families were agreeable, for a successful school experience; and

WHEREAS, at Northfield, Ms. Livingston served as team leader, editor for the school-based literature magazine, *NOVA*, counselor and craft director for the sixth grade experiences at Land Between the Lakes, committee member for SACS studies, and leader for numerous school-based events; and

WHEREAS, chosen “Distinguished Classroom Teacher” for 2002-2003, Carol Livingston’s class, “The Big Dogs” were well known at Northfield and were adopted by the Beesley Humane Foundation, often providing art for display at Linebaugh Library; and

WHEREAS, highly admired and respected by her peers, Carol Livingston is a member of the Murfreesboro Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the National Education Association, the Mary Tom Berry Reading Council, the Tennessee Reading Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, revered for her wisdom, experience and insight, Ms. Livingston held many legislative offices within her professional educators associations and was very influential in getting the first Professional Negotiations Act passed by the General Assembly in 1978; subsequently she served as a member of the first negotiation team for Murfreesboro City School teachers; and

WHEREAS, Carol Livingston's legendary career as a full-time educator regretfully ended in 2003 when she took a much deserved retirement after injuries from an automobile accident left her unable to do the quality job her high standards required; and

WHEREAS, the students of Northfield still enjoy the support and attention of Carol Livingston in her capacity as Teacher Emeritus, as she assists the PTO during the annual Lock-In and gives freely of her time and talents during Terra Nova Testing; and

WHEREAS, throughout her admirable career, Carol Livingston has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect of her colleagues and students alike; and

WHEREAS, Carol Livingston truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideas of public service and quality education for all, and should appropriately be honored and commended by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Ms. Carol Livingston, commending her excellent service to the children of Tennessee, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.